

#### 4. Hotel Mocking Bird Hill, Port Antonio, Jamaica

##### DESIGN

This independent hotel was established in 1993 by converting a private villa into a hotel. During refurbishment, all original features of the villa were retained except for the small windows, which were replaced with larger ones to maximise natural light and ventilation. The only addition to the building was the gallery, which was built on slab columns rather than blasting rock to lay the foundation. The use of formaldehyde as a building material was avoided. Floors were tiled rather than carpeted to reduce heat gain and the need for vacuum cleaning. Furniture was made of Jamaican wicker and bamboo and the use of tropical hardwood avoided.

##### LANDSCAPING

- The hotel is built on a hill, the surrounding hillside terraced to minimise erosion. The soil washed down to the bottom of the hillside is reused for terracing;
- Pathways are gravel-paved to minimise run-off and allow rainwater to seep into the soil.

##### WATER

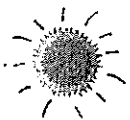
- Grey water from the kitchen, laundry and bathrooms is treated at the on-site wastewater treatment plant;
- The swimming-pool water is purified using solar-powered ionisation technology;
- Flow-reducing valves are installed on all toilet cisterns and washbasins;
- Linen is changed every three days and only towels 'dropped in the shower' are replaced;
- Rainwater is collected and used to supplement non-drinking needs.

##### ENERGY

- Passive solar design (through building orientation) and enlarged windows provide substantial light and cooling;
- A solar water-heating system provides hot water;
- Ceiling fans are used instead of air-conditioners in all areas;
- Guestrooms are not equipped with televisions or mini-bars;
- No dryers are used in the laundry;
- Motion-detectors are used to regulate all security lighting;
- Energy-saving light bulbs are fitted throughout;
- Exterior areas are lit by mercury vapour lamps;
- The use of extra-light linen reduces laundry weight and related water and energy consumption.

##### WASTE

- The following waste is separated for recycling: paper, glass plastic and cooking oils;
- Food and garden waste are composted;
- Individual guest toiletries have been replaced with wall dispensers;
- Laundry bags and napkins are made of cloth;



- The 'daily specials' menu is written on a blackboard in the restaurant, avoiding the printing of new menu sheets every day;
- Local fruits and flowers are used to garnish cocktails instead of disposable cocktail sticks;
- Picnic lunches are packed in reusable boxes;
- Beverages are bought in returnable deposit bottles;
- No aluminium paper and cling film are used;
- Only rechargeable batteries are used;
- Old linen is reused as cleaning cloths;
- The hotel makes its own jams, marmalades, bread, pasta and ice cream to minimise packaging waste.

#### PURCHASING

- There is an active policy to 'buy local' and 'buy environment';
- Products made of natural materials are given preference;
- PR and marketing brochures are printed on recycled, unbleached paper;
- All fresh produce is purchased from local farmers;
- No pesticides or insecticides are purchased;
- Washing powders are toxin- and phosphate-free;
- Baking soda, boric acid and vinegar are used for cleaning.



#### EMISSIONS

- Refrigeration equipment is CFC-free;
- All vehicles operate on lead-free petrol.



#### TRAINING AND MOTIVATING EMPLOYEES

- Employees are provided with on-the-job training to ensure that environment is well integrated into daily duties;
- Managerial and supervisory level staff attend environment-training courses.



#### COMMUNICATION

- Hotel Mocking Bird Hill markets itself as a hotel managed with environment awareness and reports that nature-oriented tourists are an important part of its clientele;
- Information about on-going EMS and environment tips for visitors are included in the guest information brochure, which also contains information on Jamaican culture;
- Tent cards in guestrooms invite guests to save water and reuse towels.



#### CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

For every nature-oriented tourist staying at the hotel, a donation is made to a local non-government environment organisation.



##### CONTACT INFORMATION

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